

Dear Members of Labor and Public Employees Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Yerinia Rivera Parkman and I live in Hartford, Connecticut. I support Senate Bill No. 1178: *An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days*.

Paid sick days are important for everyone because it is the civil right for all to receive fair compensation for their labor, regardless of hire date, status, etc. Aside from folks having personal reasons, we are all living in uncertain times.

If there is another crisis or pandemic, then everyone should have immediate access to use their accrued time without an issue.

Due to my anxiety/depression, I was required to take time off from work but because I did not have enough accrued hours at the time, I was left without pay. Maternal health is extremely important. It was difficult budgeting my bills plus medications, all while caring for my child and myself.

Society is already unfair enough and it comes with a list of problems and fees. Not having enough sick time to care for my health and well being should not be one of them. Intentionally include me.

As such, I support an expansion of Paid Sick Days as outlined in Senate Bill No. 1178: *An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days*.

1. Cover all workers regardless of employer size or industry!
2. Eliminates the waiting period to take a paid sick day from 680 hours to immediately after you start working!
3. Include all types of family structures and relationships which will allow workers to care for a child of any age, as well as their chosen family! The bill would also allow you to take paid sick time to care for a family member who experiences family violence or sexual assault.
4. Increase the number of hours of paid sick time workers can accrue and use per year from 40 to 80 hours.
5. Protect against future pandemics by allowing paid sick time to be used when a worker's place of work or child's school/place of care is closed by public officials for a public health emergency!

Thank you for your time,  
Yerinia Rivera Parkman Hartford, CT

